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Ethnic Studies

Saint Mary's College of California

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ETHNIC STUDIES

The Ethnic Studies Program at Saint Mary's College of California takes a critical multidisciplinary approach to addressing issues of power, privilege, and resistance through critical thinking, applied theory, activism, and social justice praxis.

Ethnic Studies students engage dynamic comparative multiracial and multiethnic perspectives. The program employs an intersectional theoretical lens to examine race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, legal status, Indigenous nationhood, and other dimensions of identity and lived experience.

Through course work, research, and community engagement, Ethnic Studies students explore constructions of race, ethnicity, and community within the U.S. and beyond, with particular attention paid to African American, Asian American, Latinx, Native American, and Pacific Islander communities.

The Ethnic Studies approach to teaching and learning engages many academic fields, including: anthropology, the arts, communication, disability studies, economics, history, politics, psychology, queer studies, sociology, theology and religious studies, and women & gender studies. Ethnic Studies students examine issues of social justice, colonialism, discrimination, immigration, and globalization as well as the social, political, and cultural contributions historically marginalized groups have made to society.

Ethnic Studies embodies the College's Lasallian commitment to social justice, respect for all persons, and the fostering of an inclusive community.

FACULTY

Loan Thi Dao, PhD, *Associate Professor, Director*

David Quijada, PhD, *Associate Professor*

ETHNIC STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD

Alvaro Ramirez, PhD, *World Languages and Cultures*

Shawny Anderson, PhD, *Communication*

Emily Klein, PhD, *English*

David Quijada, PhD, *Ethnic Studies*

Scott Schönfeldt-Aultman, PhD, *Communication*

Michael Viola, PhD, *Justice, Community & Leadership*

The educational goals of the Ethnic Studies Program for majors and minors include:

- **EXPLORING** the cultural and social histories of African American, Latino, Native American and Asian American/Pacific Islander ethnic groups.
- **INTEGRATING** Catholic social justice teaching, the Lasallian core values, and service based learning in service of these historically underrepresented groups.
- **CRITICALLY EXAMINING** United States racial and ethnic diversities and their interrelatedness to other international socio-historic systems.

Upon completion of the Ethnic Studies major, students will be able to:

- **DESCRIBE** the history and social theories relevant to a critical understanding of African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian American/Pacific Islander ethnic groups;
- **EMPLOY** theoretical and analytical frameworks to understand an increasingly complex, multicultural and interdependent world;
- **IDENTIFY** the social, historical, economic, and religious factors that have affected and continue to affect ethnic groups in the U.S.;
- **EXHIBIT** critical thinking about issues of social injustice and the common good, and strategies for working towards social justice.

Curriculum Ethnic Studies

ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULUM

ETHNIC STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The major consists of eleven (11) courses total; two (2) lower division and nine (9) upper division

LOWER DIVISION CORE

Ethnic Studies 01: Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 50: Creating Community

UPPER DIVISION CORE

Ethnic Studies 101: Critical Race Theory

Ethnic Studies 196: Capstone Course

Methods Course

(Choose one from the following list. Other courses may be taken with the approval of the Program Director)

History 104,105: Modern Approaches to History

Communication 111: Qualitative Methods

Sociology 132: Sociological Research Methods

SIX UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES

Students will take two (2) courses from each of the following categories: Ethnic Groups and Identity; Arts and Literature; and Socioeconomics and Inequality.

Ethnic Groups and Identity: This area includes courses that address the role ethnicity plays in one's individual, social, and political experiences and identity. The courses listed below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Program Director.

ES 102

ES/COMM 106

ES/SOC 107, 111, 116, 123, 125, *135

(*depending on course content)

ES SPAN 132

ES/HIST 017, 018, 133, 136, 139, 140, 141, 142, 154, 131, 132, 134, 170

ES/POL 003, 101, 109, 110, 140, 149

ES/PSYCH 165

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.

Arts and Literature: Within Ethnic Studies, the role of Arts and Literature is not only to reflect the social reality of ethnic experiences in the United States, but also to shape and transform that reality. Students will examine competing notions of identity and community that emerge in the literary and artistic expressions of U.S. writers and artists of color. The courses listed below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Program Director.

ES/SPAN 150

ES/SOC *135 (*depending on course content)

ES/ENGL 023, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 184, 170

ES/PERFA 014, 50, 61, 60/160, 113, 161

SEM 144

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.

Socioeconomics and Inequality: This area includes courses that address the relationship between race and ethnicity and economic, political, and social inequalities in contemporary society. The courses listed below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Program Director.

ES/ANTH 131

ES/COMM 161

ES/SOC 004, 112, 115, 120, 122, 124, *135

(*depending on course content)

ES/POL 106, 115, 125, 126, 127

ES/TRS 176, 171

PSYCH 163

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.

ETHNIC STUDIES MINOR

The Ethnic Studies minor comprises 6 courses—2 lower division and 4 upper division:

LOWER DIVISION (2)

ES 01: Introduction to Ethnic Studies

ES 50: Creating Community

ETHNIC STUDIES THEORY (1)

ES 101: Critical Race Theory

(Or other Theory course approved by Program Director)

UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES (3)

Three (3) upper division electives, with no more than two (2) from a single discipline. Below is a partial list. Other courses approved by Program Director.

ES 102, 196

ES/ANTH 131

ES/COMM 106, 161

ES/ENGL 023, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 184, 170

ES/HIST 017, 018, 133, 136, 139, 140, 141, 142, 154, 131, 132, 134, 170

ES SPAN 150

ES/POL 003, 101, 106, 109, 110, 115, 125, 126, 127, 140, 149

ES/SOC 004, 111, 112, 115, 116, 120, 122, 123, 124, 125, *135 (*depending on course content)

ES/TRS 176, 171

ES/PERFA 014, 50 (Interactive Theater), 61, 060/160, 113, 161, 184

PSYCH 163, 165

SEM 144

CORE COURSES

1 Introduction to Ethnic Studies

This course provides an introduction to the complex nature of racial and ethnic populations in the United States. It seeks to understand the diverse traditions and cultures of the people of the United States in order to gain an appreciation for American diversity. It offers a critical understanding of the origins and impacts of settler colonialism, conquest, slavery, war and immigration on the development of the U.S. We will examine the ways in which race and ethnicity intersect with gender, class, sexuality, citizenship and nationality in order to better understand how systems of power and inequality are constructed, reinforced and challenged. *This course satisfies the American Diversity requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

50 Creating Community: Introduction to Skills for Building a Socially Just Society

In a multicultural society, discussion about issues of conflict and community are needed to facilitate understanding between social/cultural groups. This course is designed to prepare students to engage in informed and meaningful dialogue in situations where such understanding and listening are needed. The skills learned in this course will also enable us to engage in dialogues about a variety of issues in our families, among our friends, at our workplaces, and in our communities. One goal of this course is to create a setting in which students engage in open and constructive dialogue, learning, and exploration of intergroup relations, conflict and community building. There are no pre-requisites for this course. *This course satisfies the American Diversity requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

100 Special Topics in Ethnic Studies

This selected topic course provides students with the opportunity to explore, in depth, a selected theme or issue in the field of Ethnic Studies not covered by the regular offerings of the department.

101 Critical Race Theory

This course engages critical race theory as an explanatory critical framework, method and pedagogy for analyzing race and racism in the U.S. and that works toward identifying and challenging racism within institutional contexts. *Prerequisite: one of the following: ES 001, SOC 002, SOC 004, WAGS 001 or permission of instructor. This course satisfies the American Diversity and the Common Good requirements of the Core Curriculum.*

102 Youth Cultures, Identities and New Ethnicities

This course is an introduction to the field of Critical Youth Studies that discusses the social constructions of youth culture and identity across time, space and social historical movements. The course focuses upon key concepts and theories of youth that intersect across social positions (i.e., race, gender, sexuality, class and ethnicity) in the U.S. *Prerequisite: one of the following: ES 001, SOC 002, SOC 004, WAGS 001 or permission of instructor.*

195 Special Study Internship

This course is usually taken by an upper-division student who wishes to complete their education with related work experience and is maintaining at least a C average. In addition to work experience (6–8 hours per week), outside research and a term project are usually required. *Sponsorship by an Ethnic Studies faculty member and approval of the Program Director is required.*

196 Capstone Course

This course entails discussion, independent study, research and analysis culminating in the production of a senior thesis in a chosen area within Ethnic Studies. *Prerequisites: one of the following: ES 001, SOC 002, SOC 004, WAGS 001 and at least two upper division Ethnic Studies elective courses. Open to seniors; juniors may enroll with consent of instructor.*

197 Special Study

An independent study or research course for students whose needs are not met by the regular course offerings of the program. *Permission of the Program Director is required.*

199 Special Study – Honors

An independent study or research for majors with at least a B average in Ethnic Studies. *Permission of the Program Director is required.*